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LETTER DATED 8 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as the representative of the country that is the current Chairman of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the text of the statement made by the OIC group at the United Nations on recent Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annexes would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

Statement of the OIC group at the United Nations

The members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, bearing in mind the ongoing tragedy in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, met in New York on 8 April 1993 to consider the serious situation resulting from the aggression carried out by Armenian forces in Azerbaijani territory.

The members were addressed by H.E. Tovfik Kasimov, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic. In his address, the Minister informed the members of the situation in his country as a consequence of the occupation of Kelbadjar district of Azerbaijan by Armenian forces. The members expressed their appreciation for the information provided by the Minister and voiced their deep concern at the serious deterioration in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan which they saw as a threat to the security of regional States as well as to international peace and security.

The members noted with gratitude the press statement made by the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, H.E. Dr. Hamid Algabid, a copy of which is annexed. They expressed their full support for this statement.

While condemning Armenia for its recent aggression, the members called upon the Security Council to take action commensurate with the gravity of the aggression when it considers this question upon receipt of the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations called for in the Security Council Presidential Statement of 6 April 1993.

The members of the OIC decided to remain seized of this matter.

Annex II

Press statement dated 4 April 1993 of the Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the intensification of fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia

His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid, Secretary-General, has expressed the deep concern of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the intensification of armed hostilities between Azerbaijan and Armenia recently following the Armenian offensive against the Azeri town of Kelbadzhar.

The Secretary-General has noted with great anxiety and concern that this Armenian offensive has resulted in a serious escalation and expansion of the conflict, which according to reports has also received foreign encouragement and support.

The Secretary-General condemned the Armenian aggression and capturing of Azeri territory and expressed the total solidarity of the OIC with the Government and people of Azerbaijan in their efforts to defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of their country.

The Secretary-General recalled that the Organization of the Islamic Conference has repeatedly appealed to Armenia to renounce its aggressive policy of expansionism and supported all efforts notably by the regional States and CSCE to find a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The Secretary-General called upon Armenia to abide by its commitments under the Charter of the United Nations and international law and withdraw its forces from the territory of Azerbaijan and seek negotiated settlement of the Upper Karabakh issue.

The Secretary-General called upon the States concerned to refrain from encouraging any escalation and extension of the conflict by Armenia and to scrupulously abide by the principle of non-interference.

The Secretary-General also appealed to the international community, particularly neighbouring countries, the regional States and the CSCE to intensify their efforts to persuade Armenia to end the hostilities and join Azerbaijan in the quest for an honourable and peaceful settlement based on the principles of respect for the internationally recognized borders and territorial integrity of States.